

## January Program Meeting

By Susie Schaefer

Have you ever noticed that every day there are large groups of crows flying west every morning and heading east every afternoon? Did you know that these large “rivers of crows” are based at the University of Washington Bothell Campus every night? UW Bothell is home to a very large nocturnal crow roost on the North Creek Wetland Restoration by the campus, consisting of more than 16,000 crows in the winter. UW Bothell Professor Douglas Wacker and his students have been watching and researching these birds to learn how large groups of crows communicate and specifically how crows combine vocal and



non-vocal behaviors to communicate in social groups. Dr. Wacker will be sharing what they have observed, recorded, and learned about these intelligent University-based birds so far. You will not want to miss this fascinating program from our own backyard. After hearing Dr. Wacker, you may never think about crows in the same way again. He has lots of photos and data from their observations that will be of interest to all; by the end of his presentation, you will be planning your own trip to the campus to see the amazing sight yourself.

Douglas Wacker received his BS in Biological Sciences from the University of Alaska, intending to work with charismatic megafauna such as bears and wolves; instead, he started interning at the Alaska Bird Observatory. He completed his PhD at the University of Washington where he studied aggressive behavior in



Song Sparrows. Dr. Wacker is currently an Assistant Professor of Animal Behavior at UW Bothell so it is not surprising that he and his students are now doing this exciting research about the birds who share their campus.

All Pilchuck Audubon programs are free and open to all Pilchuck members and to community members of all ages who have an interest in birds and environmental issues affecting birds. Program meetings are the second Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (no meetings are held in August and December). Most meetings are at the Firefighter Hall in Everett, located at 2411 Hewitt Avenue, which is three blocks east of the hockey arena downtown. Parking is available in a lot adjacent to the building as well as on-street parking. ✧

JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING  
**Crows and the University of Washington Bothell**  
Friday, January 11, 2019  
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
Everett Firefighters’ Hall  
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett ([map](#))

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## BIRDING CLASSES

### Taught by Candy Brown

The two classes below will be held at the Frances Anderson Center, 700 Main Street, in Edmonds, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Cost for each class: \$17 for residents, \$19 for non-residents.

To register, call 425-771-0230

### WATER BIRDS — FEBRUARY 12

We will discuss several of the different kinds of ducks that live in the Puget Sound region as well as geese, gulls, blackbirds, herons, shorebirds, and others. We will see the unique nests they make and how their babies are very different from those of songbirds.

### MORE AMAZING BIRDS — MARCH 13

Many interesting and beautiful birds visit our region at different times of the year or are permanent residents. We will look at and discuss the habits of sparrows, warblers, wrens, woodpeckers, cedar waxwings, and more. ✧



## The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Klamath Basin Winter Wings Festival February 14-17, 2019

Enjoy more than 50 guided birding and photography field trips, workshops, receptions, keynotes, and more throughout the Klamath Basin in Oregon and California. Featured speakers are Pepper Trail, George Lepp, and Julie Zickefoose. To learn more, visit [www.WinterWingsFest.org](http://www.WinterWingsFest.org).

Registration is open now.

## About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon Profile, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society, is published monthly.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, for the benefit of the earth's biological diversity.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to encourage the involvement of our members in efforts to protect the habitat this wildlife

depends upon for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. PAS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

### Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles to [newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org) or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

### To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.610.8027.

The monthly Profile is available online at

[www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)

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Twenty years ago, I was the new co-owner and operator of Turners Neighborhood Grocery on South Lake Stevens Road, in the rural area between the cities of Snohomish and Lake Stevens. I was also a new mother, and very busy with both tasks. It was during this time that some of our customers began telling me of the county's plan to allow for the 33 acres on Cavalero Hill (at the corner of Cavalero Road and Hewitt, just east of the US 2 Trestle) to become a large commercial big-box store. At that time, I didn't know anything about the Growth Management Act (GMA) even though it had been adopted in 1990. In addition, I did not know what an urban growth area (UGA) was nor did I know anything about comprehensive plans, development regulations, or Smart Growth.



But I did know that putting a big-box store at that corner didn't seem like a good idea. With zero knowledge about county land-use processes, I proceeded to go around my rural neighborhood, many of whom were our customers, and asked if these people wanted a big-box store (most likely a Fred Meyer) at that location. No one did, and they signed a petition stating that they were opposed. I was informed that there would be a county public hearing on the comprehensive plan pertaining to our rural areas and establishing urban growth areas, so I took the petition with me to the public hearing to voice our opposition. It was a packed auditorium and quite intimidating to me. As I listened to people speak to the County Council, I became concerned that my opposition testimony may not be the right place or time. So at a break right before I was up to speak, I talked to a planner out in the foyer and told her what I was going to speak about. We looked at the maps, and she informed me that I was wrong, that the 33 acres was slated to remain residential. I was about to abandon speaking before the council, when the County Clerk told me I should just go ahead and speak to be on the record, just in case. So I did.

A few days later, I learned that the County Council indeed expanded the Lake Stevens UGA to include the 33 acres and zoned them commercial. I was even more confused. I decided to call up my County Council member and asked why the Council made that decision when so many folks in the area were opposed. At that point, I had a lesson in how not to be a County Council member. Basically, he told me that this had been in the works for a long time and that I was just not sophisticated enough to understand. Well, needless to say, I started getting more sophisticated.

That is when I called Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) and spoke with the Smart Growth Director. She informed me that I would need to file an appeal to the Growth Management Hearings Board (GMHB) within 60 days and that I should get a lawyer (and she recommended a great lawyer). She also told me about a Pilchuck Audubon member who may be able to help me for a lesser cost than the attorney would charge. After meeting with both of these people, I filed my first appeal to the GMHB. I won the case! I won on the procedural issue that the county did not accurately describe the zoning being proposed to the public, so the GMHB did not even look at my substantive issues of why this development and UGA expansion were not compliant with the GMA. Regardless, I won and the county had to go back and start over. After five years of organizing my neighborhood into a non-profit, the developer and county finally got weary, and now that 33 acres is Cavalero Hill County Park!

That is how I got my start in land-use issues. I was then asked to be a board member on County Issues for Pilchuck Audubon Society. Not long after that, I left the grocery store and needed to find another job. In 2002, I was hired by Futurewise to run their Snohomish County office. In 2005, Futurewise joined forces with Pilchuck Audubon Society, and I represented both these organizations until 2015, when Futurewise closed its Snohomish County office. I have worked full-time for PAS since then.

But all things do change. At the end of this year, I will be stepping down as Smart Growth Executive Director and Executive Director of Pilchuck Audubon Society. However, PAS will not be abandoning the Smart Growth work, and as I write this, we are working on a plan for 2019. I am not sure exactly what my life will look like next year or thereafter, but I will be around and may be doing some independent consulting work.

I am proud of some of our accomplishments over these many years. Here is a list of some of my proudest achievements:

- Hosted 5 Livable Snohomish County summits. The first one was to bring together all the multiple neighborhood groups, organizations, and individuals working on land use and environmental protection issues to start a networking group, which I did, called the Livable Snohomish County Coalition. The other summits centered on Climate Change, Water, Building Livable Communities, and how to be involved in Comprehensive Plan and Critical Areas Regulations Updates.
- Stopped a new city of 15,000 people on the west bank of Lake Roesiger. Fought for five years, and finally convinced the County Council that a new city was an absurd idea, especially this far out in the rural area. The council eliminated the policies and regulations that would have allowed for these new cities in Snohomish County called Fully Contained Communities.
- Stopped two urban growth area expansions in the Southwest UGA, and stopped new countywide planning policies that would have allowed for UGA land swaps (which would take away any semblance of comprehensive planning) from being adopted.
- Protected farmland, shorelines, and critical areas by demanding stronger regulations. Currently, still awaiting a hearing with the Court of Appeals for our appeal of the county's Critical Areas Regulations as it relates to

*(Continued on Page 4)*

landslides and water policy in our rural and resource lands.

- Worked in 2005 and 2015 with Futurewise and other organizations and groups for a county 20-year comprehensive land-use plan that would ensure more growth will be directed to our largest cities, with a reduction in growth directed into our rural areas and no increases to our existing urban growth areas.
- Wrote op-eds and letters to the editor in local and regional newspapers and on local radio stations on issues of concern with growth and environmental protection. During the Oso mudslide disaster, the current Smart Growth Executive Director was contacted by Al-Jazeera and *The New York Times*, as well as *The Seattle Times*, *The Everett Herald*, KUOW, KPLU, and KSER radio stations. I have also been the weekly voice on KSER 90.7-FM, informing their listeners of upcoming land use meetings, hearings, and events.
- Served on many county, city, and non-governmental committees, most recently the Sustainable Lands Strategy and the Everett Station District Alliance. Over the years, other committees I have served on include Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO) Implementation Committee for Puget Sound Partnership; and Everett Station District Alliance (ESDA), a stakeholder group working toward more transit-oriented development and connectivity around the Everett Transit Station. I also served on the following: Planning Committee (and presenter) for the first Regional Equity Summit;

Inclusionary Zoning Committee for the Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County; City of Snohomish Shoreline Master Program Citizen Advisory Committee; Fully Contained Communities Stakeholder Committee; Snohomish County Agricultural Sustainability Task Force; Reality Check; Blue Ribbon Task Force: City of Snohomish Critical Area Ordinance Stakeholder Committee; City of Marysville Critical Area Ordinance Stakeholder Committee; Snohomish County Shoreline Master Program Citizens Advisory Committee; GMA Mineral Lands Committee; Urban Centers Project Committee; Transportation Concurrency Policy Stakeholder Committee; Economic Development Council Committee on Streamline Permitting; Technical Advisory Committee for Snohomish County Buildable Lands Report.

- Hosted 13 Feast fundraisers, which helped support the Smart Growth work.

Through my 18 years of doing work for both of these great organizations, I have met so many caring people, many who have helped me be successful and many that I helped as well. Land-use issues are one of the most emotionally charged concerns people take on; they can be expensive and frustrating. As our county grows and changes, it will continue to be so. As 2019 goes forward, keep reading the Profile for updates from our president about what PAS will be doing to honor its mission and goals.

Thank you, everyone, for all you have done to support the Smart Growth Program since 1993! ✧

## THANK YOU, Kristin, and Best Wishes on the Road Ahead

*by Cindy Easterson, PAS President*

Partings are always hard. As we send Kristin Kelly off with our best wishes for her transition to semi-retirement, we also regret the loss of a fabulous partner and employee who has shared our vision for protecting birds and wildlife habitat across Snohomish County. Her story of how she became involved with land-use issues and her own rise to a well-respected advocate is a fascinating account and one we can all appreciate and learn from. The power of a passionate voice does make a difference, and we are so grateful for her hard work and effort these past fifteen years.

The Pilchuck Audubon Board is well aware we will not be able to fill Kristin's shoes in quite the same way that she has worked for us these past years. Her abilities and experience are unique and encompass years of developing strong working relationships with regional leaders. However, we do fully recognize the need to continue monitoring land-use issues within Snohomish County to make sure birds, wildlife, habitat, and green spaces are part of future planning. The impacts from sprawl and burgeoning communities are being felt by us all. It's hard to ignore the increases in traffic, the strains on our infrastructure, and the many fresh areas cleared of vegetation for new housing. With this in mind, your Board is collaborating with Futurewise

as well as considering potential agreements with partners and consultants for making sure we continue the important work of Smart Growth.

Your continued support of this work through donations to the Smart Growth program of Pilchuck Audubon is important for keeping this work feasible and sustainable into the future.

In addition to moving the Smart Growth program forward, we are also working on a succession plan and transition for a new Executive Director (ED) for the organization. This will be a leadership position whose key task will be completing and implementing a long-term strategic plan for Pilchuck Audubon. We are grateful to Kristin Kelly for agreeing to continue with some administrative work and tasks into the new year so that we can 'keep the lights on' while launching a search for the right person to fill the ED position.

Please feel free to contact me or any member on the Board with your thoughts and ideas as we ponder the road ahead. As we approach this new adventure, we offer nothing less than our heartfelt thanks to Kristin for her years of service and best wishes to her for the journey ahead. ✧

## TRIP CALENDAR

Check our website at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)  
for the latest information



**Tuesday, January 1**

**Happy New Year**

**Tuesday, January 8**

**Camano Island**

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Quilceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. (next to I-5). We will bird Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit, and wherever else Virginia prefers. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

**Saturday, January 12**

**Carkeek Park, Seattle**

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Lynnwood Transit Center, which is in the vicinity of I-5 Exit 181; come to Bay D1, which is near the southwest corner of the parking lot. We'll carpool to Carkeek Park. For anyone who may wish to meet us at the park, we should arrive at the Eddie McAbee entrance around 8:30 AM; the parking lot is at 6th Ave. NW, just north of NW 100th Pl. in Seattle.

Trip Leader: Douglas Resnick, 425-776-4811  
(cell: 206-617-0019), [dresnick1@comcast.net](mailto:dresnick1@comcast.net)

**Tuesday, January 15**

**Port Townsend**

Meet at 7:10 AM at the Edmonds Wade James Theater Parking Lot. The theater's address is 950 Main St., Edmonds, 98020, just east of 9th Ave, on the south side of Main St. We'll take the ferry to Kingston, go through Port Gamble and across the floating bridge. On the way we'll visit Marrowstone Island and Indian Island with views of Admiralty Inlet, waterfowl, shorebirds, and seabirds. Previous trips have been memorable and rewarding. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

**Tuesday, January 22**

**Snoqualmie River Valley  
Monroe to Carnation**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, one-half mile west of the Fairgrounds. Expect a fun time and exciting birds. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

**Tuesday, January 29**

**South Whidbey Island**

Meet at 7:10 AM at the Eastmont Park and Ride, I-5 exit 189, East side, aiming for the 8:00 AM ferry from Mukilteo. Crockett Lake always yields a large and varied species list, and the rest of South Whidbey is great birding. Pack a lunch. Trip leader: Wilma Bayes, 360-629-2028

**Tuesday, February 5**

**Fir Island and  
Samish Flats Areas**

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Expect almost anything. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

**Saturday, February 9**

**Beside Snohomish River**

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Everett Mall (1402 SE Everett Mall Way), which is in the vicinity of I-5 Exit 189; park near the bus station in the parking lot south of LA Fitness. We'll carpool to Field's Riffle and to Riverview Wildlife Refuge.

Trip leader: Douglas Resnick, 425-776-4811  
(cell: 206-617-0019), [dresnick1@comcast.net](mailto:dresnick1@comcast.net)

## AUDUBON ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

*HELP US INFLUENCE POLICY AND FIND SOLUTIONS FOR  
CLIMATE ACTION! PLEASE JOIN US JANUARY 22, 2019 IN  
WOODINVILLE TO LEARN EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY TACTICS*

In 2014, the National Audubon Society released a report finding that Climate Change threatened half of all North American bird species. For us, these birds are a symbolic messenger of everything we cherish and everything we stand to lose in the face of a looming climate catastrophe. Washington state has aimed to lead the way on climate policy for a number of years, whether in the legislature or at the ballot box, but a cohesive statewide policy has remained a challenge. This year, in the wake of a recent defeat at the ballot, the Washington legislature is better positioned than it's ever been to pass meaningful climate policy. We are advocating for a suite of policies that would put Washington on a path to 100% clean energy before mid-century or earlier. **But we can't succeed without your help!**

On the evening of January 22, we are inviting everyone from the community to a meeting co-hosted by Audubon Washington, Eastside Audubon, and Pilchuck Audubon. This will be a two-hour program on how we can strengthen our advocacy and political influence in these very important legislative districts we reside in. This is similar to other community meetings around clean energy advocacy we've done in places like Edmonds, Mercer Island, Vancouver, and Issaquah. The meeting would be split up into two parts, first giving folks an overview of the big clean energy/environmental bills in the legislature. The second part will focus on developing effective advocacy tactics and building power in our communities that will be useful far beyond the legislative session.

**Where:** Woodinville Unitarian Universalist Church  
**1902 NE Woodinville-Duvall Rd**  
**Woodinville, WA 98077**

**When:** Tuesday, January 22. Doors open at 6:30, program from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

## Year in Review

I focused last January upon the scary, destructive policy proposals and bills coming out of the White House and the Republican-controlled congress, hoping the slim Republican majority in the US Senate would forestall dreadful bills previously passed in the House. I'm glad to say that thanks to some Republicans and Democrats, almost none of those bills passed this session. Senators Cantwell and Murray, respectively through the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the Appropriations Committee, were instrumental in working across the aisle to achieve many successes. I have thanked them both, and urge readers here to thank them as opportunities arise!

The administration's **proposal to raise national park entrance fees** did come to pass for some parks; smaller raises than first proposed for others; some entrance fees, no change. Frankly, Congress' long history of underfunding the National Park Service over many administrations, regardless of party, in part provoked the fee proposal did not help, and the need for funds to repair and maintain facilities is still dire in places.

**The fight to save Arctic National Wildlife Refuge** from oil drilling is still not over. Other offshore drilling permits outside of refuge areas are being sought. A significant House Democratic majority in the next Congress will help prevent bad laws from passing in that chamber.

Closer to home, we celebrated bill passage in Olympia revoking some **net-pen Atlantic salmon farming permits** and limiting other permits' duration. There hasn't been much good news of late for this industry's operations in Washington state. An agreement has just been reached in British Columbia by the provincial government, some First Nations, and some net-pen Atlantic salmon farming companies to end business by 2045.

**Leque Island Phase II** to connect new drainage canals will be completed this year. Access by road with a new parking area will be built.

**Lords Hill Regional Park** planning continued last year. A proposal to turn it into a regional mountain biking center

was dropped but not forgotten, so we must pay attention to Snohomish County Parks and Recreation's planning for the park.

**I-1631** (carbon fee) was becoming an idea a year ago, waiting to see what the legislature might produce in support of 100% fossil-fuel free electricity. No legislation passed, which caused the I-1631 signature-gathering campaign to be launched. It made it to the ballot but failed to pass. Next steps are underway for legislation to achieve a number of carbon emission reduction bills.

**Senator Steve Hobbs released a proposal** before Christmas in an interview with *Everett Herald* reporter Jerry Cornfield. According to Cornfield, Hobbs "... is embracing a quixotic legislative route (to) build highways, save salmon, reduce air pollution, and price carbon all at once." For details, read Cornfield's December 20 story in the *Herald*.

Those of us who will be in Olympia on January 29 for Lobby Day plan to visit Senator Hobbs to learn more about his proposal. We will also be telling him about Pilchuck Audubon's priorities to reduce air pollution.

**2019 Washington State Legislative Directory**—The 2018 directory in Pilchuck's website will soon be updated along with the congressional directory for districts in our area. ✧

## LOBBY DAY

**Please join us for Audubon Lobby Day,  
January 29, 2019; Olympia, Washington**

**Make a difference** by joining us in Olympia for a fun day of advocating for birds and a better world for future generations with our state leaders and representatives. You'll receive:

**Training** — Learn from experts about advocating for a better planet for birds and people by making a compelling case to your state representatives.

**Meet with Elected Officials** — Audubon Washington will set up all meetings—you just need to come!

**Fellowship** — Meet people who share your concerns and are committed to building a sustainable world, one where birds and people thrive.

Contact Cindy Easterson, [president@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:president@pilchuckaudubon.org) or 425-876-1055, for more information or to join our team in Olympia. ✧

## BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

October 26, 2018 to November 25, 2018

As usual, I will start with Carole and Larry Beason. Their report from Lake Bosworth included 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 15 Bufflehead on the lake, 100 Canada Goose flying overhead, 30+ Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Downy Woodpecker, 2 Great Blue Heron, 8 Hooded Merganser, 9 Lesser Scaup, 24 Mallard flying over, an Osprey over the lake, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, 12+ Red-winged Blackbird, 14 Ring-necked Duck on the lake, a Hutton's Vireo on the road, 3 Wood Duck on the lake, and Winter Wren in the rose bushes, for a total species count of 40.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo listed a Cooper's Hawk, 4 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 4 Northern Flicker, 8 Steller's Jay, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, 12 American Robins, a Varied Thrush (hit the window and died; very sad), 3 Spotted Towhee, a White-crowned Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 4 Purple Finch, 1 House Finch, 2 Pine Siskin, and 2 American Goldfinch, for a total species count of 24.

Kriss Erickson listed a Barred Owl in her report from her home in Everett along Intercity Avenue. She also reported 13 Dark-eyed Junco, 22 American Robin, 2 Song Sparrow, 23 Northwestern Crow, 22 Western Gull, 8 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 23 Black-capped Chickadee, 5 Anna's Hummingbird, Spotted Towhee, 3 Downy Woodpecker, 43 European Starling, 5 House Finch, a Hairy Woodpecker, 13 Mallard Duck, and 17 Canada Goose flying overhead, for a total species count of 21.

Mary Sinker had a very busy month counting birds on her property in Stanwood. She reported an invasion of 100 American Robin during a heavy rainstorm. They were feeding on the English Holly berries. She also listed over 75 Dark-eyed Junco, 10 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle, 2 Bewick's Wren, 11 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Brown Creeper, a Cedar Waxwing that stopped by along with all the American Robin, 9 Downy Woodpecker, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 3 House Finch, a Killdeer in the pasture, 20 Mourning Dove, 6 Northern Flicker, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, a Red-tailed Hawk, 9 Song Sparrow, 5 Spotted Towhee, 14 Steller's Jay, a Varied Thrush, 4 White-crowned Sparrow, and 5 Winter Wren, for a total species count of 30.

My report from Marysville includes 12 American Crow along the road, 5 American Robin, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 6 House Finch, 18 Dark-eyed Junco, 12 Mourning Dove, 7 Northern Flicker (their numbers have increased this year), 3 Spotted Towhee, a Downy Woodpecker, 4 Steller's Jay, 4 Mallard Duck, 1 Pileated Woodpecker, a Common Raven in the backyard, and a Cooper's Hawk, for a total species count of 18.

If you are interested in participating in our Backyard Birding count, please email me at [pricemara1@gmail.com](mailto:pricemara1@gmail.com) or leave a message on my cell phone at (425) 750-8125. ✧

## REPORT: Beside Lyon Creek

1 December 2018

by Douglas Resnick, Trip Leader

Lisa, Terry, Sue, and I met on a cool morning at the Mountlake Transit Center. As soon as we started the car, Jonathan and Judy arrived, so we formed a caravan of two vehicles, heading for four sites roughly along the course of Lyon Creek. The temperature warmed into the 40s fairly quickly. We observed 33 species of birds, as recorded on eBird.

We began by visiting nearby Terrace Creek Park. This is one of the larger parks in Mountlake Terrace, a multi-use park with a playground, a disk golf course, and a long trail that runs beside Lyon Creek. Most of our observations were by ear and included several woodpeckers: Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, and Northern Flicker. One actual sighting, though brief, added a Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk to our list.

After a stop at Starbucks, we headed south to Terrace Ridge Park. This is a smaller park, shaped like a valley, with terrain covered mainly by grass. A street at the bottom divides the park into northern and southern parts. The park has no trail as such, but we birded the northern part by walking along the perimeter, next to trees and bushes. The area at the top was especially rewarding for us, because abundant berries attracted a mix of small birds, including quite a few House Finch.

Next, we crossed the county line and travelled a short distance east to arrive at Horizon View Park. We walked mainly on its paved trail, skirting the central grassy area and the Lake Forest reservoir, but pausing briefly to observe a group of humans learning to fly-cast. Our most notable avian observation was of a multitude of American Robins, which were flying from tree to tree.

Our final stop was at Lyon Creek Preserve Park, where we could see the creek empty into Lake Washington. We drove our vehicles to the lot at Town Center, in order to make use of the park's designated spaces, then walked into and through the nearby park, finally setting up our spotting scope on the park's pier. From there, we were happy to observe numerous waterfowl and other birds associated with the water, including Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Lesser Scaup, Belted Kingfisher, and Bald Eagle.

We finished our birding around 12:30 p.m., then adjourned to the Honey Bear Bakery for lunch. ✧

# UPCOMING EVENTS, CLASSES, and FESTIVALS *farther afield*

## Wings Over Willcox

Jan 17-20

Willcox, AZ

From the rugged peaks of the Dos Cabezas and Chiricahua Mountains to the Dragoon Mountains, stretches the Sulphur Springs Valley, home to a great variety of plant and animal life. This bio-diverse area from grasslands to sky islands is home to a unique mix of flora and fauna and nearly 500 avian species. The Magic Circle of Cochise, which begins and ends in Willcox, offers the outdoor nature enthusiast the opportunity to visit some of the best birding and wildlife attractions in Southeastern Arizona. Guest speakers, seminars, workshops, birding tours, evening programs, the Nature Expo (vendors, activities for kids), and Southeastern Arizona cuisine and hospitality. Call 520-384-2272 or visit our website for more information.

## Everglades Birding Festival

Jan 17-21

Davie, FL

Explore the Everglades ecosystem while searching for 150 plus species, such as Snail Kite, Painted Bunting, Limpkin, Short-tailed Hawk, Red-whiskered Bulbul, and more. Full day field trips to ENP, Corkscrew, Keys, STA 5, and South Florida Hotspots with lunch. A focus on gaining advanced birding skills with mini-workshops, small groups, and expert guides. Keynotes, Dinners, and Evening Programs. Contact: Paddy Cunningham, 754-201-1141, [birdpaddy@yahoo.com](mailto:birdpaddy@yahoo.com).

## North Shore Birding Festival

Jan 17-21

Mount Dora, FL

The North Shore Birding Festival is perfect for birders visiting Florida wanting to learn more from knowledgeable birding guides. Add to your life list at an amazing birding area, the 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore, where 360+ species have been sighted, more than any other inland location. Four full-day trips and 16 half-day trips are offered, along with keynotes and dinners. For details and registration, call Orange Audubon at 407-637-2525 or visit our website or Facebook page.

## Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival

Jan 18-21

Morro Bay, CA

Every Martin Luther King weekend, more than 500 bird lovers visit Morro Bay, California, a Globally Important Bird Area, to see, photograph, and learn more about birds. Morro Bay is located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco on the Pacific Flyway. The area offers beaches, state parks, a natural history museum, panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and, best of all, thousands of birds. More than 200 species are usually sighted during the festival weekend. <http://morrobaybirdfestival.org/> or (805) 234-1170.

## Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival

Titusville, FL

Jan 23-28

This festival is a premier event that offers opportunities for participants to explore world-renowned natural areas of Florida's Space Coast, home of the largest collection of endangered wildlife and plants in the continental United States. Field trips and outdoor workshops; offshore birding boat trip; nature-based exhibits; art show and competition; classroom presentations; and informal opportunities to meet national authorities on birds, plants, photography, optics, and technology. The festival has been named for many years as a "Top 20 Event" by the Southeastern Tourism Society. For more information, call 321-268-5224, or visit their website.

## Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival

Homer, AK

May 9-12

Join birders from around the world for Alaska's largest wildlife festival. Located on the beautiful shore of Kachemak Bay, the Homer Spit is one of the most accessible places for shorebird viewing in Alaska. With over 100,000 shorebirds of 25 different species migrating through in early May, this four-day event celebrates the return of spring and migrating birds. The festival has great birds, excellent guiding, educational seminars and workshops, and children's activities at all skill levels. Keynote speakers to be announced. For more information, contact Festival Coordinator, Mallory Primm, 907-226-4631, [info@kachemakshorebird.org](mailto:info@kachemakshorebird.org). ✧

### Pilchuck Audubon Society Membership Information

Support your local Audubon chapter by becoming a member. PAS dues are tax deductible (consult your tax professional for details). The PAS tax ID number is 91-6183664.

- New Member ..... \$28
- Renewal ..... \$28
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- Donation ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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Make checks payable to **Pilchuck Audubon Society**

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Send me these via e-mail (check all that apply & include your e-mail address above):

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Pilchuck Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation registered with the Washington Secretary of State. Your contributions are tax deductible.